

to build robots. They then compete against other teams in regional competitions and culminate with a national competition at Disney World in Florida.

Tomorrow FIRST is bringing 12 of its outstanding teens here to provide a mini version of one of its competitions. One of these teams, I am proud to say, is Montwood High School and their robot Rambot which comes from El Paso, Texas, in my district. I am very proud of the hard work and determination that brought them here this week.

Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have already joined me in supporting FIRST and are helping to sponsor tomorrow's event. I urge each one of my colleagues, as well as their staffs, to come by the Rayburn foyer tomorrow between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to learn how the lives of our students and students in my colleagues' districts can be changed forever in a very positive way.

CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF FREE AIR TIME

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to debate campaign finance reform some of my colleagues continue to press for free air time. Some of the legislation we will be considering requires broadcasters to sell time to candidates at 50 percent below the already discounted rate. I really do not think they have carefully considered the consequences of this issue.

The first problem is that it will not necessarily reduce campaign spending. What would stop a candidate from buying twice as many spots?

Secondly, the glut of commercials will simply turn voters off. A survey by Opinion Research Corporation last year showed that 61 percent of adults do not want more campaign ads on TV or radio.

What do they want? They want more debates and news coverage, all of which are currently provided by broadcasters for free.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to take a step back, let the voters decide and allow the best candidate to win.

HOW WE CAN BEST SERVE AMERICA'S STUDENTS

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, good morning. I rise today to talk about the issue of education and the debate that is evolving here in the House about how we can best serve American students. The best seems to be two areas of thought. The Republicans today and tomorrow will talk about another program to aid private school education.

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The Democrats again are saying we need to support public education. This is really ironic when we think of the fact that 90 percent of American students attend public school. It would seem only logical that we would put our money where the students are.

However, that is not the case on the Republican side. They are advocating so-called savings accounts for education that would allow tax-free contributions into private schools. That is not the way we can help American education.

The Democrats have a very simple and straightforward approach. We suggest that what we need to do is improve public schools. We need to reduce class size by providing Federal assistance so that we can hire more teachers. Sixty percent of Americans surveyed say the Federal Government needs to spend more money on public education. We can hire 100,000 new teachers, we can reduce class size, we can modernize our schools.

We need to put our money where the students are, and that is in public education.

COMMITMENT TO A MORE SECURE FISCAL FUTURE FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the tax man cometh and cometh and cometh. Yet, there is a bright light at the end of this dark tax tunnel.

Today in Congress, Congress will have that chance to answer the call of millions of hard-working families in this country who feel the Federal Government needs a new system of taxation. Today, the Federal Government has the great opportunity to renew the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress have a chance to lift the tax burden off their constituents by passing legislation to sunset the current Tax Code. It is time to retire this outdated and oppressive Tax Code; it is time to give our children and generations to come the opportunity to participate in the American dream that rewards hard work, not penalizes it, with an unfair tax system. It is time to clear the way for a fairer, less complicated, and less burdensome tax system in this country.

Mr. Speaker, let us tell the American people that we are serious about changing the tax system and pass the Tax Code Termination Act. It is our commitment to a more secure fiscal future for our children and future generations.

ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago this House made a commitment to eliminate the marriage tax penalty in the budget that we passed, and I think a series of questions best illustrate why it is so important.

These are pretty simple questions. Do Americans feel that it is fair that our Tax Code actually provides a higher tax on a married couple just because they are married? Do Americans feel that it is fair that 21 million married, working couples pay on the average of \$1,400 more just because they are married? Do Americans feel that it is right that the only way today to avoid the marriage tax penalty is to file for divorce? Of course, Americans all agree that is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, \$1,400 in the south suburbs of Chicago, that is one year's tuition at Joliet Junior College; that is 3 months day care at a local day care center. Higher taxes just because you are married are wrong.

We made a commitment in the budget that we passed out of this House a few short weeks ago to eliminate the marriage penalty. Let us work together in a bipartisan way. I hope President Clinton will join with us in making this a bipartisan effort to eliminate the marriage penalty. Let us eliminate the marriage penalty, and let us eliminate it now.

PAKISTAN NUCLEAR TESTS: AN- OTHER CLINTON FOREIGN POL- ICY FAILURE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, Asia is in a full blown nuclear arms race, and I think Bill Clinton is personally responsible for it.

The sad truth is that Bill Clinton permitted the sale of satellite and missile technology to China. China provided nuclear assistance to Pakistan and Iran. That prompted India to boost its nuclear weapons program, not because it was afraid of Pakistan, but because it was afraid of China, and then Pakistan upped the ante.

At best, this represents striking incompetence on the part of the Clinton-Gore administration. It will require congressional and other investigations to establish whether corruption also played a role.

Presidents Reagan and Bush restored America's credibility and left America and the world safer places. Clinton has systematically eroded our credibility abroad and he is irresponsibly squandering the presidential legacy he inherited.

So what does this President do? He jumps on India and Pakistan and jumps on a plane to China, which is the source of the problem. Outrageous. I suppose consistency is too much to expect from this administration.